

operationjulie

getting behind the UK's biggest LSD operation

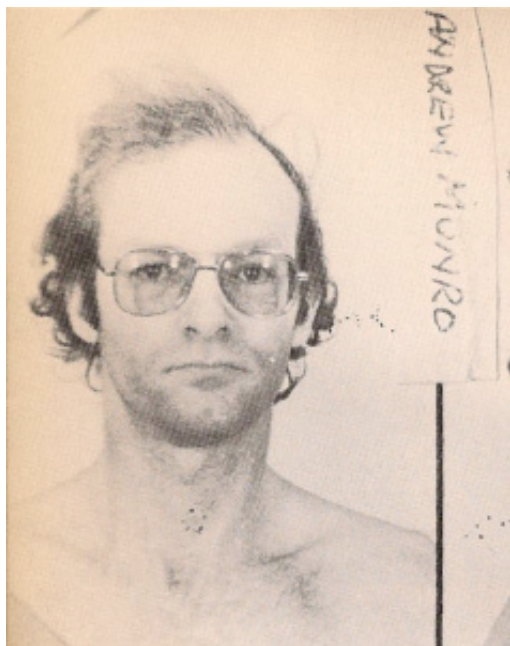
4 Hanover Road, Kensal Rise and 71a Webbs Road, Battersea – Andy Munro

May 7, 2012



(<http://operationjulie.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/andymunrobristol1.jpg>)

Andy Munro (photo probably taken at Bristol Crown Court)



(<http://operationjulie.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/andymunromugshot.jpg>)

Andy Munro – the reluctant chemist?

Andy Munro is quite an enigma in the Operation Julie network. Throughout the trial he described himself as of ‘no fixed abode’ although he had been staying at 23 Seymour Road and 71a Webbs Road in Battersea Rise during his time as the LSD chemist for Henry Todd and Brian Cuthberton.

In the early 70s he had been living at 4 Hanover Road in Kensal Rise, an area just above the residences of Richard Kemp and David Solomon. He was a person who seemed to mix in many circles – among the activists and more loosely aligned underground figures in early 70s London. He had connections with the London squatting scene in North London. He was also associated with John Gravelle, a political activist, who held “Moonrock” workshops at the Roundhouse in London. These are described as a ‘radical children’s workshop’, moving away from organised children’s entertainment to more creative activities such as films, painting, acting, face-painting, drumming and music. He was also thought to have worked as a school-teacher. Highly educated, at Cambridge University and the University of East Anglia, he seemed unconfident of himself as a practical chemist. Self-described as clumsy, he had also been athletic: winning the English Schools Boys Discus Championship (junior) in 1963. Those who knew him – the Julie circle and the police – comment on his pleasant and gentle manner.

In his statements to the police, Andy Munro portrayed himself as a largely unwilling, coerced chemist – largely forced into production by Henry Todd and Brian Cuthbertson against his will. However, he’d been hanging out voluntarily in that milieu for quite some time – since the early 1970s. In fact, he was one of the first names to come up when police began investigating the possibly of LSD production in the UK.

In 1974 Gerry Thomas – an American associate from David Solomon’s loose network – had been caught trying to smuggle a large amount of cannabis from India into Canada. To try to win a lighter sentence, he offered to trade information about the activities of Solomon, Kemp and Bott and ‘a man called Henry’ in the UK. Among the papers found on Gerry Thomas when he was arrested were names and addresses across Asia, the US and Europe – including Andy Munro at 4 Hanover Road, London, NW10. Police raided the Hanover Road address, but Andy Thomas had moved on and the trail was cold.



(<http://operationjulie.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/4hanoverroadnw10.jpg>)

4 Hanover Road – home of Andy Munro and where Gerry Thomas stayed for a few days in 1972

Andy Munro had been a friend of David Solomon's and Richard Kemp's in Cambridge. He'd helped Kemp with analysing the content of Todd's tablets produced from Kemp's crystal, when Kemp suspected that Henry Todd was only including 100 microgrammes in each tab instead of 200 microgrammes. Following the acrimonious split between Kemp and Todd over this, Henry Todd and Brian Cuthbertson recruited Andy Munro as a replacement LSD chemist. It's not clear how reluctant he was: he carried out productions in Chesterfield, and at Seymour Road and possibly at other locations. Apparently he picked up no more than £50k for this work – considerably less than Todd or Cuthbertson were making.

During the Seymour Road runs, Andy Munro lived at 71a Webbs Road, Battersea Rise – a very pleasant street just off Clapham Common and full of interesting one-off boutiques, children's clothes shops, and other signs of gentrification. It was to here that Andy Munro was followed by police from Seymour Road in a cross-London surveillance operation as Munro travelled by train from Hampton Wick to Clapham.



(<http://operationjulie.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/71awebbsroadanotherview2.jpg>)

71a Webbs Road (left-hand side of 'Lizzies')



(<http://operationjulie.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/71awebbsroad3.jpg>)

71a Webbs Road

Not much has been heard from Andy Munro since the Operation Julie time, but it's said that Andy Roberts managed to get the Julie chapter of his 'Albion's Dreaming' book to Munro to check for broad accuracy.

From → Uncategorized

Leave a Comment

Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com. | The Titan Theme.

Follow

Follow "operationjulie"

Build a website with WordPress.com